



**MEETING MINUTES**  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF MONO  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Regular Meetings: The  
First, Second, and Third  
Tuesday of each month

**Regular Meeting**

County Courthouse,  
Bridgeport, CA 93517

**October 21, 2008**

9:00 AM Meeting Called to Order by Chairwoman Bauer  
*Supervisor Reid was absent due to illness.*

Pledge of Allegiance led by Supervisor Farnetti

**OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**  
*No one spoke.*

**BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

**Supervisor Reid** reported on the following:

1. No report.

**Supervisor Hunt** reported on the following:

1. Tuesday through Thursday of this week, there is a blood drive at the RV Park in Mammoth for Dennis Domaille.
2. First 5 is holding a board meeting this Thursday in Lee Vining from 4:00-8:00 p.m. Will be visiting communities to hold public hearings and obtain input about the direction of the program over the next five years.
3. The Small Business Development Center at Bakersfield College is available to hold seminars in the community to discuss business-related issues; this service is offered to local businesses at no charge. However, they are asking the County to contribute \$5,000. Will agendaize this item for Board discussion.

**Supervisor Hazard** reported on the following:

1. The Wilderness Bill is alive and moving forward; it is contingent upon approval of an economic stimulus package. The Senate has the votes needed.

**Supervisor Farnetti** reported on the following:

1. Report deferred due to time constraints.

**Chairwoman Bauer** reported on the following:

1. Report deferred due to time constraints.

## COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

- 1) CAO Report regarding Board Assignments (David Wilbrecht)  
RECOMMENDED ACTION: Receive brief oral report by County Administrative Officer (CAO) regarding his activities.  
**David Wilbrecht** reported on the following:
  1. Report deferred due to time constraints.

- 2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES  
*No minutes to approve.*

## CLOSED SESSION

**Closed Session: 9:04 a.m.**

**Reconvened: 10:14 a.m.**

**Lunch: 12:30 p.m.**

**Reconvened: 1:22 p.m.**

**Break: 3:20 p.m.**

**Reconvened: 3:29 p.m.**

## HUMAN RESOURCES

- 3a) Labor Negotiations (**Robert Garret**) - CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS. Government Code Section 54957.6. Agency designated representative(s): David Wilbrecht, Marshall Rudolph, Brian Muir, Mark Mikulicich, & Robert Garret. Employee Organization(s): Mono County Paramedic Rescue Association.
- 3b) Labor Negotiations (**Robert Garret**) - CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS. Government Code Section 54957.6. Agency designated representative(s): David Wilbrecht, Marshall Rudolph, Brian Muir, & Robert Garret. Unrepresented employee(s): Assistant Chief Probation Officer, Assistant Director of Public Works, Deputy District Attorney III, & Solid Waste Superintendent.

***The Board had nothing to report from closed session.***

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS/EMERGING ISSUES**

**Lynda Salcido** reported on the following:

1. State budget situation: Lost about \$9,000 in augmentation funding for public health; \$35,000 cut from CCSD administrative funding; unknown at this time how much funding the medical therapy program will lose, which may cause rationing of services to children; realignment funding continues to be flat or will decrease slightly; \$2,800 was cut from the CH program; HIV funding is gone. Anticipated several of the cuts and planned for them in the FY 2008-09 budget.

**Ed Zylman** reported on the following:

1. Briefly described impact of state budget: 1.3% cut in MediCal; food stamp budget increased 58%; 1.4% cut in in-home supportive services (\$2,400); no cut in adult protective services; approximately 8.5% cut in CalWorks, which assists with job placement and income while a person is unemployed/underemployed, but increase in the food stamp program should help; unknown at this time what the allocation for child welfare services will be. The County programs should continue to function well due to efficiencies and the fact that the County is rural.

**Mary Booher** reported on the following:

1. Update on Mental Health budget: Reduction of 5.6% (\$7,500) in management care; no cuts this year in Prop 36 funding to small counties.

**Beverly Bryant** reported on the following:

1. Regarding the Assistant Chief Probation Officer position that the Board will consider at its November 4<sup>th</sup> meeting, there won't be a representative from her department available that day to attend the meeting. She wanted to Board to be aware of this in advance.

**Jody Henning** reported on the following:

1. Updates: Tax bills were mailed out the week of October 6<sup>th</sup>; her office is receiving a lot of phone calls about assessed values. She plans to put out a press release letting taxpayers know what the Assessor's Office can do and plans to do. Regarding Mammoth Mountain, the appraisal is on track.

**Tom Wallace** reported on the following:

1. Finished drafting a contract between the County and IMAAA governing board that will allow Mono County to begin administering its own program beginning January 1, 2009. Waiting for a final allocation letter from the department of aging.

**Rose Glazier** reported on the following:

1. Reported about funds in the Oak Valley Bank account. The average balance is about \$2 million; the money is insured up to \$250,000 and the remainder is collateralized in the event something happens to the bank.

**Evan Nikirk** reported on the following:

1. Status of recruitments in Public Works: Recommending the appointment of Joe Blanchard; advertising in-house for two positions; going public for two maintenance workers and two seasonal maintenance workers; a request for a transfer has been approved, which leaves a vacancy at the landfill; interviews will take place the first week of December.

**Lynda Roberts** reported on the following:

1. Following up last week's report about foreclosures, provided additional information

about Trustees Deeds Upon Sale (foreclosed properties) recorded in the Clerk's Office. Between January and September 2007, 4 documents were recorded: 2 Mammoth properties and 2 properties in North County. Between January and September 2008, 38 documents were recorded: 31 Mammoth properties and 7 properties in North County.

**Sheriff Scholl** reported on the following:

1. Budget: CalMet funding (anti drug enforcement) was cut approximately \$65,000; the snowmobile off road allocation was cut completely this year, but will be able to bid for grant monies beginning in January.
2. Held public meetings and received comments about the anti-loitering ordinance; will hold the ordinance at this time pending further discussions amongst the various agencies.
3. Will give a department report on November 18<sup>th</sup> to discuss department statistics and citizen surveys.

## CONSENT AGENDA

(All matters on the consent agenda are to be approved on one motion unless a board member requests separate action on a specific item.)

### CLERK OF THE BOARD

- 4a) Letter from Al Heinrich dated October 14, 2008 - Letter from Al Heinrich, dated October 14, 2008, addressed to the Mono County Board of Supervisors. Subject listed is voter intimidation.

**M08-204** **Action:** Refer letter to the Grand Jury for investigation.  
**Farnetti/Hunt, 4-0; Reid absent**

- 4b) Appointment to CSA #5 - Appointment of Marlys Harper to CSA #5.

**M08-205** **Action:** Appoint Marlys Harper to fill the vacancy on CSA #5 created by Daphne Hansell's moving.  
**Farnetti/Hunt, 4-0; Reid absent**

## REGULAR AGENDA

### CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED (INFORMATIONAL)

All items listed are available for review and are located in the Office of the Clerk of the Board

### CLERK-RECORDER

- 5a) Letter from Verizon Wireless - Letter from Verizon Wireless addressed to Anna

Hom, Consumer Protection and Safety Division, California Public Utilities Commission (cc: Clerk of the Mono County Board of Supervisors), regarding Notification Letter for Lee Vining, Cellco Partnership (U-3030-C) California 6-Mono RSA.

- 5b) June Lake General Store - Petition signed by people supporting the June Lake General Store.

Chairwoman Bauer: The June Lake General Store announced last week that it will stay open. The Board acknowledged receipt of the correspondence.

#### COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

- 6a) Resolution of appreciation for public service by Betty Potterville (**Tom Wallace**) - Resolution of appreciation for 15 years of public service by Betty Potterville as a member of the Inyo Mono Area Agency on Aging Governing Board.

- M08-206** **Action:** Adopt a resolution honoring Betty Potterville for 15 years of public service as a member of the Inyo Mono Area Agency on Aging Governing Board.

**Hazard/Hunt, 4-0; Reid absent**

Tom Wallace: Betty was unable to attend today's meeting. Wallace acknowledged her significant contribution of 15 years of volunteer service on an advisory board. She was always the voice speaking up for seniors. It is important to recognize her contribution and its value.

Supervisor Hazard: Asked the Board to pass the resolution today. Will arrange for Betty's attendance at a future meeting so the Board can present the resolution to her.

#### PUBLIC WORKS

##### **Additional Departments: Animal Control**

- 7a) Bid Opening – Ford F250 Pickup Truck Purchase (**Evan Nikirk and Jeff Walters**) - Open and read aloud bids received in response to Public Works' invitation to bid for purchase of seven new Ford F250 pickup trucks. Provide any desired direction to staff.

- M08-207** **Action:** Refer bids to the Public Works Director for review and recommendation. Present results later in the meeting.  
**Farnetti/Hazard, 4-0; Reid absent**

Jeff Walters: The bid proposal is for seven, 2009 Ford 250 trucks, to be used by the Public Works road districts and the parks and facilities supervisor; one truck will be used by the animal control officer. Bid requests, including two addenda, were sent to 30 dealers; 21

responded. Anticipated delivery is about 3-4 months.

The Clerk opened the bids, and Walters read them. Walters will present the results later in the meeting.

**Additional Departments:** Community Development, IT, Social Services

- 7b) Bid Opening – Subaru Forester Purchase (**Evan Nikirk / Jeff Walters**) - Open and read aloud bids received in response to Public Works' invitation to bid to furnish seven new Subaru Foresters. Provide any desired direction to staff.

**M08-208 Action:** Refer bids to the Public Works Director for review and recommendation. Present results later in the meeting.  
**Farnetti/Hazard, 4-0; Reid absent**

Jeff Walters: These Subarus will be used by IT, Community Development, Solid Waste, and Social Services. Bid requests were sent to 30 dealers.

The Clerk opened the bids, and Walters read them. Walters will present the results later in the meeting.

## FINANCE

**Additional Departments:** Health Department, County Counsel

- 8a) Temporary Food Facility Fees (**Brian Muir**) - Consider proposed resolution exempting certain nonprofit organizations and local government agencies from fees for temporary food facilities. Receive staff report. Provide any desired direction to staff.

**R08-56 Action:** Adopt **Resolution R08-56** exempting certain nonprofit organizations and local government agencies from fees for temporary food facilities.  
**Hazard/Hunt, 4-0; Reid absent**

Marshall Rudolph: Drafted the resolution working with Brian Muir and Lynda Salcido. The issue came up several months ago during the summer when there were a lot of festivals and non-profits had to pay fees for their temporary permits. The Board expressed a desire to exempt the non-profits from paying the permit fees. The Health Department gathered data showing the types of entities over time that have been exempted. About 99% of these organizations would be exempted in the future. The County must ensure that it is not making a gift of public funds by granting exemptions. Rudolph had to find a public purpose for granting the exemption, and the resolution specifies the purposes. Section 2 of the resolution lists exceptions to the exemptions. The fiscal impact, based on lost fee revenue, is calculated to be \$1,675. Since there will be questions from time to time, discretion will be given to the Finance Director and County Administrator to interpret the resolution based on a particular situation (such as an organization outside the County that wants an exemption but may donate some funds to a local charity).

Lynda Salcido: This resolution does not release organizations from having to obtain a food permit. Also, it will assist Environmental Health with their enforcement activities.

**Additional Departments:** Assessor, Information Technology

- 8b) Contract with Megabyte Systems, Inc. (**Brian Muir**) - Consider County entry into proposed contract with Megabyte Systems, Inc., pertaining to purchase of an integrated property tax management system and authorize the Chair to execute said contract on behalf of the County. Receive staff report. Provide any desired direction to staff.

**M08-209**      **Action:** Approve County entry into proposed contract. Authorize Chair to sign said contract on behalf of the County. Fiscal impact \$750,000 which was approved by the Board during the budget process.  
**Farnetti/Hunt, 4-0; Reid absent**

Rose Glazier: The Board approved funding for this contract during the budget. Finance would like to go live with the software in February; the first payment is not due until the new year. The contract has been reviewed and approved by the County Counsel's office. As soon as the contract is signed, IT will work with the vendor to install the software. Staff members will attend a users' group meeting initially and then will attend training in January. The proposed contract was presented by the vendor and they have reviewed the minor changes made by county counsel; the contract allows for upgrades. Also, there is potential for taxpayers to pay online using a credit card; this will happen in the future.

Supervisor Farnetti: This is a great system and is very integrated; information is current and updated daily. It is a streamlined process and taxpayers will have on-line access to certain information.

**HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

- 9a) Designation of Director of Environmental Health (**Lynda Salcido**) - Title 17 of the California Code of regulations requires that a county health department must have a director of environmental health. Louis Molina meets the specific requirements from the State of California for a Director of Environmental Health. He is employed by Mono County as the Environmental Health Manager, but for the purposes of the State should be recognized as Director of Environmental Health.

**M08-210**      **Action:** The Board of Supervisors recognizes Louis Molina as the Director of Environmental Health for the purposes of the State of California Title 17, California Code of Regulations.  
**Hazard/Hunt, 4-0; Reid absent**

Lynda Salcido: Action on this item will designate a director of environmental health as required by the state. Louis Molina was hired as environmental health manager; he meets or exceeds all the requirements.

- 9b) Mono County Children and Families Commission, Grant Agreement (**Lynda Salcido and Lorena Weber**) - Consider and potentially approve County entry into proposed contract with the Mono County Children and Families Commission and the Mono County Health Department First 5 Home Visiting Program pertaining to the delivery of home visiting services and authorize the Board Chair to execute said contract on behalf of the County. Receive short presentation on the First 5 home Visiting Program. Provide any desired direction to staff.

**M08-211 Action:** Approve County entry into proposed contract. Authorize Board Chair to sign said contract on behalf of the County.  
**Hunt/Hazard, 4-0; Reid absent**

Lynda Salcido: This is a one-year contract for Fiscal Year 08-09 between Mono County and the Children Families Commission; the County will receive \$221,338 in funding. The program has provided services to over 900 families, and 906 children. The Commission is in the process of a visioning project and will be going into the community for input about the best use of the money.

Lorena Weber gave a PowerPoint presentation outlining the First 5 Home Visiting program.

Supervisor Hunt: This has been a great program. There is an issue about future funding, but the Commission is working on ways to maintain the current level of service. Supervisor Farnetti agreed that this is a valuable program. Supervisor Hazard: Asked for a comparison of the number of SIDS deaths over the last several years. Salcido: Nationwide SIDS deaths are down because of better education. Salcido could not recall a SIDS death in Mono County for the last six years. Weber said since visits are in the home, the worker can view the environment and can better educate people.

**Additional Departments: County Counsel**

- 9c) Workshop: County Policy on Wells within Service Areas of Public Water Systems (**Louis Molina, Environmental Health Director Allen Berrey, Assistant County Counsel**) - Receive presentation by Environmental Health Director Louis Molina and Assistant County Counsel Allen Berrey regarding the issuance of well permits for new wells within the service areas of public water systems in the County. As a point of discussion only, consider a draft ordinance that would generally prohibit the construction of new wells within the service areas of public water systems in the unincorporated part of the County, subject to certain exceptions.

**M08-212 Action:** Direct staff to return to the Board with the necessary documents setting a 120-day moratorium on the issuance of well permits in existing water districts.  
**Hazard/Farnetti, 4-0; Reid absent**



Allen Berrey outlined the issue:

- The County has a well ordinance, based on a state model, governing issuance of well permits, which makes obtaining a permit a ministerial function.
- The ordinance considers some aspects of construction, but doesn't consider alternative water supplies. Over time, concern has been expressed about drilling wells in the area of a water service district, due to potential contaminants and possible interference with the existing water supply; also wells can cause problems with revenue for the water service district.
- The proposed ordinance makes legislative findings and would provide the County with police power; the ordinance would be enacted according to constitutional provisions.
- The general plan doesn't address construction of wells *per se*, but the proposed ordinance would further the purposes of the general plan and would not be inconsistent.
- New construction would be serviced by existing providers, and new developments adjacent to service districts would be annexed into a district where feasible.
- Regarding the constitutionality of the ordinance and restricting property owner rights, recent court cases have found that water is such a valuable resource it can be subject to regulation. Other counties have similar ordinances.
- The proposed ordinance would prohibit drilling a well if it is feasible to hook up to an existing water supply.
- The proposed ordinance is just a draft and is intended to start a discussion. This does raise a lot of issues for the Board to consider, such as, whether or not the Board wants to address this at all, and whether or not this should be addressed in the general plan rather than with a well ordinance.

Louis Molina: From an environmental health standpoint, he is considering the potential issues of contamination and quantity. In 16 years, Molina has seen two wells and one proposed well within a water district boundary; but there could be more requests due to impending drought situations. Molina would want to make sure there are exemptions to allow drilling based on certain criteria

Mindy Pohlman, June Lake Utilities District: Asked the Board in March to update the well ordinance. Since then one well has been put in with hints of others being drilled. There is an issue of water conservation since people with private wells can use more water than others. Individuals drilling wells are using water for irrigation and are already hooked up to the existing system. Use from a recently drilled well averages about 1/4 million gallons per month for irrigation (between the two homes). One individual uses more water in a month than the triplex uses in a year.

Supervisor Farnetti: The permitting process encourages people to connect to the system. The County should consider environmental health issues, contamination, safety, impact to water districts, and conservation.

Supervisor Hazard: There are well issues and water issues in District 2. Mountain Meadows area would like an ordinance, but other citizens do not support it; a community discussion needs to take place. There also needs to be an appeals process that encompasses a variety of potential exemptions. Berrey: The existing ordinance has an appeals process that would be used; however, it can be refined if the Board so desires. Hazard: A new ordinance should specify that people on wells would have to comply with standards for the benefit of the district.

Supervisor Hunt: The proposed ordinance is a step in the right direction; people need to use water wisely and in coordination with the community. Hunt agreed with having this proposed ordinance go through a public process.

Chairwoman Bauer: There is a time constraint in her community. More well permits may be issued during the time it takes to go through the public process. Berrey: The Board may be able to adopt a moratorium on new wells. Bauer: Would like a moratorium in June Lake while this issue is being settled.

\*\*\*\*\*

## LUNCH BREAK

\*\*\*\*\*

## OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

*No one spoke.*

## CLERK OF THE BOARD

- 10a) Trail System Master Plan Update, Town of Mammoth Lake (**Danna Stroud, Tourism and Recreation Director, Town of Mammoth Lakes; Steve Speidel, Principal Planner, Town of Mammoth Lakes; John Wentworth, Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access**) - Presentation and update on the Trail System Master Plan, Town of Mammoth Lakes. Graphic material (i.e. 40x60 inch maps) will be on display during the presentation.

**Action:** Receive presentation; provide direction to staff if desired.

Danna Stroud: The 1991 trail system master plan was updated this year and the Town now has the opportunity to improve upon the trails system. Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access surveyed users in order to gather statistics, which helped with the plan update, and a variety of organizations have helped in the process both financially and collaboratively. The Town's role has been to administer the contracts.

John Wentworth provided an update about MLTPA and the trails plan. Will continue to effectively engage all parties involved, including the County, the Town, and Mammoth Mountain. The entire county could benefit from this process.

Steve Speidel: Reviewed the trails planning process.

- The collaborative effort is one of the most important aspects of the process; this has been a public engagement process.
- The 1991 plan was the starting point for the update process. MLTPA surveyed people at key points to determine how people use these points.
- Speidel reviewed maps of the trail system area in Mammoth; there are missing links in the trail system. The consultant will review how to create an interconnected trail system.
- Using the MLTPA data, planners were able to work better with the consultant, work better with the GIS system, and convey to the public what is currently in place and outline future opportunities.
- Held public workshops to encourage public input. Part of the public outreach included a form that people could use to provide comments. MLTPA also produced copies of the plan document for public review. Comments will be consolidated by the end of the month.

- The first consultant focused on the urban growth boundaries, and the second consultant focused on the rural-type of trail system/experience. This has been a great opportunity to work with the Forest Service and bring their planning efforts into the process.
- Currently in the process of having a full review of the August 2008 draft master plan. The plan will go through the CEQA process prior to going before the Town Council for adoption.

Supervisor Farnetti asked about funding mechanisms.

- Speidel: The consultant has identified a number of grant programs that are available. The Town provided funding for the MLTPA work and the consultants. There is still a need to work on signage and way-finding.
- Stroud: The Town has aggressively pursued grant opportunities to complete a segment of sidewalk used by children walking to school. But they miss opportunities for funding that other agencies may be able to assist with. If efforts could be focused collectively, could pursue bigger grant opportunities.

Supervisor Hunt: How does the plan tie in with the surrounding public lands? How will this benefit the County long term? There are many multiuse opportunities in the County that can tie together to create a unique experience.

- Stroud: Will be working with the Forest Service on smaller projects, such as Lakes Basin and Shady Rest areas. Engaging the Forest Service to get assistance in planning efforts on their land, inside and outside the Town boundaries. Over the next 20 years may receive about 100,000 new visitors per year which will create capacity issues. The Forest Service wants to address this issue, and as various groups come forward with resources, they are willing to start planning efforts. This process will provide a model that can be used in other areas; shared resources will help further the process.

Supervisor Hazard: The County needs to be part of the discussion, and all the users need to be part of the planning process; the effort needs to be coordinated. Hazard suggested the recreational round table would be a good mechanism to aid the discussion.

- Stroud: Currently using the interface area to bring forth discussions amongst the various stakeholders about trails planning (which falls along a spectrum from hiking trails to roads used for OHV/OSV recreation). There has been significant engagement at the staff level, but there is a need for a broader coordination effort.
- Wentworth: Implementation won't happen without the partners who have signed the MOU.

Supervisor Bauer: Need to broaden the perspective to include Mammoth in the discussion the same way other communities are included (i.e., RPACs); need to bridge the gap between the Town and County planning efforts. See a need for a joint planning effort, jointly funded, between the Town and County, similar to the partnership currently with the GIS position. Requested staff to bring back a model of how the County could fund a joint trails coordinator. The other board members agreed with the idea of receiving information without a commitment to funding at this time.

## MENTAL HEALTH

11a)

Annual Report from the Combined Mental Health/Alcohol and Drug Advisory Board (**Cathy Lytle, Dolores Wright, Rosanne Higley**) - Receive

presentation of annual report from the Combined Mental Health and Alcohol/Drug Advisory Board to the Board of Supervisors.

**Action:** None

Ann Gimpel briefly reviewed the report: The Mental Health Board has been an important addition to the program. Using Mental Health Services Act funding, they hope to be able to spend up to \$400,000 to rehabilitate the Davison Street facility. Regarding the AVITAR system, it is designed to do automated billing. Initially there were mistakes made due to lack of training, but the "lost" MediCal revenue has been billed to the state and mistakes have been corrected so revenue is now being claimed in a timely manner. Also each member of the JPA participates on a committee, which recently hired a consultant to assist with solving problems.

Supervisor Hunt reiterated the importance of the Davison Street facility and the need to rehabilitate it. Hope this functioning facility can be maintained; the other alternative would be to look for another facility in Mammoth.

#### COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

- 12a) Recommendation of Dolores Wright to the Inyo Mono Area Agency on Aging Governing Board (**Tom Wallace**) - Receive presentation by Tom Wallace regarding recommendation of Dolores Wright as the senior citizen representative of Mono County on the Inyo Mono Area Agency on Aging (IMAAA) Governing Board.

**M08-213 Action:** Recommend Dolores Wright for appointment as the Mono County senior citizen representative on the IMAAA Governing Board.  
**Hunt/Hazard, 4-0; Reid absent**

Tom Wallace: The vacancy was created by the resignation of Betty Potterville. The IMAAA bylaws say that the Mono County Board of Supervisors can make a recommendation to the IMAAA governing board for a member to serve on the board. Wallace asked the Board to make the proposed recommendation which would put the nomination before the IMAAA governing board at their next meeting. The recruitment process produced one applicant, Dolores Wright, who is very well qualified. She has also been an advocate for bringing more services into Mono County. Wallace and Supervisor Hazard interviewed Wright.

Supervisor Hazard concurred that she is qualified and is very enthusiastic about working on the board. He supported her nomination. Hunt concurred.

- 12b) 2007 - 2008 Grand Jury Report (**David Wilbrecht**) - Receive a presentation by David Wilbrecht regarding the 2007 - 2008 Grand Jury Report. Consider and potentially approve a draft letter to the Grand Jury and authorize the Chair to sign the letter on behalf of the Board of Supervisors. Provide any desired direction to staff.

**M08-214      Action: Approve the letter as drafted.  
Hazard/Farnetti, 4-0; Reid absent**

David Wilbrecht: County Counsel helped draft the proposed letter; he recommenced approval. The Board agreed the letter is fine as drafted.

COUNTY COUNSEL

- 13a) Fire Mitigation Fees (**Marshall Rudolph**) - Continue discussion regarding the proposed resolution establishing new or increased fire mitigation fees applicable to new development within the boundaries of the Antelope Valley Fire Protection District. The public hearing was conducted at the Board meeting held October 14, 2008.

**R08-57      Action: Adopt Resolution R08-57 establishing new or increased fire mitigation fees applicable to new development within the boundaries of the Antelope Valley Fire Protection District.  
Hunt/Farnetti, 4-0; Reid absent**

Marshall Rudolph: After last week's hearing, the Board had one area of concern: fees being applied to governmental agencies. The Fire Protection District clarified that the focus of the governmental fees is a narrow situation, which the revised resolution reflects. Those fees will only apply to government uses on private property. Relayed this information to Supervisor Reid in a telephone message.

Chief Sherlock: Apologized for not attending the public hearing last week; he was called to help with fire fighting elsewhere. Held meetings with the fire district but not the RPACs. Sherlock clarified that government dwelling units make up about 20% of the fire district, and the base housing has plans to increase in size and may roll over to a private entity.

CLERK OF THE BOARD

- 14a) Cinnamon Ranch Conservation Easement (**Supervisor Hazard, Jim Elias, and Richard Moss**) - Proposed Resolution in Support of an Application for Grant Funds from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy for the Cinnamon Ranch Conservation Easement Project.

**R08-58      Action: Adopt Resolution R08-58 in Support of an Application for Grant Funds from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy for the Cinnamon Ranch Conservation Easement Project.  
Hazard/Farnetti, 3-0; Hunt abstain, Reid absent**

Jim Elias, American Land Conservancy: Asking for the Board's support for a recent application submitted to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy to purchase an easement on Cinnamon Ranch. It is an historic ranch, one of the oldest in Mono County and on the east side of the Sierras. They currently have an organic alfalfa farming operation, and have a trout

raceway. This easement would ensure the ranch is never broken up; it could continue to function as a ranch or an open landscape. The easement would protect the long-term agricultural capacity of the ranch and would protect the wildlife habitat; it would insure that thousands of motorists along Highway 6 can enjoy the view of the White Mountains. All future development would be contained within a building envelope, which would be in keeping with an agricultural operation. Outside the envelope the landscape would remain largely unchanged for the future. Agriculture would not have to continue within the envelope, but the easement would enable it to do so. The easement is in keeping with the spirit and letter of the law of Mono County's general plan. County revenue comes from tourism and agriculture, which this easement would protect. Asked the Board to support the proposal for funding of the conservation easement.

Supervisor Hunt: Sits on the board that would be issuing the grant, so will abstain from voting.

Supervisor Farnetti: Supports the concept of easements. The value of this easement is \$1.4 million but the grant proposal is for about \$700,000; asked how the difference will be funded.

- Elias: The remaining funding will come from the conservancy organization.

Supervisor Hazard: Supported several conservation easements in his district. This easement, however, is part of an active ranch and produces income for the County; expressed concern about loss of use due to the easement. Referred to the Conway Ranch that had a protective blanket on it, but now the community wants to explore other uses of the property.

Dave Doonan: The property in question is a self-sustaining (energy) ranch so it would be able to continue as a viable agricultural property. The conservation easement lowers the value to a point that people can continue to afford agricultural production. Currently working with the agricultural commissioner on community-based food production that would benefit Mono County. Use of the ranch could shift to natural beef or vegetable production. The County can look at this easement as a resource to keep agriculture viable. Once small pieces of land are sold off, the resource is lost for the future. Any agriculturally related industry is within the use of the property.

Debbie Doonan: The easement protects the agricultural use; maintaining the ability to produce food is vital.

Elias outlined the benefits of the easement:

- Migration corridor.
- Property tax revenue is not affected because the current use of the property won't change.
- The next buyer won't have to account for the value of the property easement.
- If the property is returned to the market, it will probably be bought and subdivided.

Supervisor Farnetti: If the ranch does not become productive, there is more pressure for the owner to sell. Supports people willing to put a conservation easement on agricultural land.

Supervisor Hazard: Opposed to using agricultural land for housing, but the community needs the ability to replace agriculture with something that would provide jobs (such as business or industry).

Elias: Seeking to create as many options within the building envelope as possible that maintains the agricultural nature of the property. Would be willing to make a presentation to the community or a small working group about conservation easements.

## PUBLIC WORKS

- 15a) Installation of Park Playground Equipment (**Mary Ellen Halpin**) - Consider and potentially approve County entry into proposed contract with the lowest responsible bidder pertaining to the installation of Park Playground Equipment and authorize the Public Works Director to execute said contract on behalf of the County. Receive staff report. Provide any desired direction to staff.

**M08-215 Action:** 1. Allocate supplemental funding in the amount of \$90,000 from the Capital Improvement Program account to fund installation of the playground equipment which was originally to be done by County staff. 2. Award the contract for the installation of Park Playground Equipment to D. A. Lewis Construction in an amount not to exceed \$107,464.80. 3. Authorize the Public Works Director (in consultation with County Counsel) to execute and administer the contract for the installation of Park Playground Equipment, including the authority to make minor amendments from time to time as the Director may deem necessary, provided such amendments comply with the Public Contract Code, do not substantially alter the scope of work or budget, and are approved as to form and legality by County Counsel.  
**Hazard/Farnetti, 4-0; Reid absent**

Mary Ellen Halpin: The County purchased playground equipment for five parks; installation of the equipment went out to bid. D. A. Lewis Construction came in with the lowest base bid.

Kelly Garcia: Wood chips will be installed by County staff since this alternate substantially increased the low bid. Recommended awarding the contract to the low bidder in an amount of \$107,464.80. The contractor can potentially complete installation in all five parks this year. Will need \$90,000 from the CIP fund in order to complete the project

- 15b) Construction Project Workshop (**Kelly Garcia and Jeff Walters**) - Receive oral report from Public Works staff regarding facility construction projects currently in progress and those scheduled for completion in the near-term. Discuss and consider prioritizing additional improvement projects. Receive presentation of Public Works' proposed construction project tracking methods.

**Action:** Provide any desired direction to staff.

***Pulled this item due to time constraints.***

### **Additional Departments:** Animal Control

- 15c) Award of Purchase Contract – Ford F250 Pickup Trucks (**Jeff Walters**) - Receive oral report and recommendation(s) from Public Works regarding the results of bids opened earlier in the meeting. Consider and potentially authorize a purchase contract to the lowest responsible bidder. Provide any desired direction to staff.

- M08-216**      **Action:** 1. Award purchase contract to Downtown Ford, Sacramento, CA, in the amount of \$207,863.25 for seven new 2009 Ford F250 XLT 4x4 diesel pickup trucks for the Public Works and Animal Control departments.  
2. Authorize the Public Works Director to prepare, process, and execute applicable purchase documents with said dealership on behalf of Mono County.  
**Hunt/Farnetti, 4-0; Reid absent**

Jeff Walters: Provided an evaluation of the bids. The lowest responsible bidder is Downtown Ford; their bid came in under budget. Recommended Board approval.

**Additional Departments:** Community Development, IT, Social Services

- 15d)      Award of Purchase Contract – Subaru Foresters (**Jeff Walters**) - Receive oral report and recommendation(s) from Public Works regarding the results of bids opened earlier in the meeting. Consider and potentially award purchase contract to lowest responsible bidder. Provide any desired direction to staff.

- M08-217**      **Action:** 1. Award purchase contract to Albany Subaru, Albany, CA, in the amount of \$145,303.16 for seven new 2009 Subaru Forester 2.5X AWD vehicles. 2. Authorize the Public Works Director to prepare, process, and execute applicable purchase documents with said dealership on behalf of Mono County.  
**Farnetti/Hazard, 4-0; Reid absent**

Jeff Walters: Provided an evaluation of the bids. Albany Subaru is the lowest responsible bid; their bid came in less than budgeted. Recommend Board approval.

ADJOURN: 3:55 p.m.

§§§§§